

Message Text

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73

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SCI-06 PC-10 USIA-15 IO-14 INR-10

DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 IGA-02 EB-11 EUR-25

DRC-01 RSC-01 /193 W

----- 061176

R 281500Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ROME

SECSTATE WASHDC 2231

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 0631

AFDROUGHT

EO 11652: NA

SUBJECT: ROSSO FERRY

REF: LONDON 06394, DAKAR 2797, NOUAKCHOTT 0582

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS REPLY TO LONDON 06394

1. REGRETTABLY, HANDFUL AVAILABLE POWERED BARGES ALONG SENEGAL ARE ALL PRESENTLY IN USE FOR GRAIN TRANSPORT BETWEEN ST. LOUIS, SENEGAL AND ROSSO, MAURITANIA. USE THESE CRAFT AS ADJUNCT OR IN LIEU OF FERRY, IN ANY EVENT, IMPRACTICABLE. ADDITIONAL ON-AND OFF-LOADING INVOLVED WOULD RESULT IN LOSS RATES PROBABLY APPROACHING 50 PERCENT. SAME WOULD BE TRUE IF PIROGUES OR OTHER CRAFT LOADED WITH GRAIN ON SENEGAL SHORE AND UNLOADED ON MAURITANIAN SIDE OF RIVER SENEGAL.

2. PRESENTLY, GIRM HAS ONLY ONE DECREPIT FERRY IN OPERATION AND THAT (ACCORDING TO BRITISH ARMY ENGINEERING TEAM) LIMPING BADLY. SECOND FERRY PROBABLY BEYOND USEFUL REPAIR, EVEN IF IT WOULD FLOAT. NO RPT NO OTHER FERRIES ARE AVAILABLE
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HERE OR IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. WE HAVE ALSO CONSIDERED

INSTALLING TEMPORARY PONTOON BRIDGE ACROSS RIVER SENEGAL AT ROSSO, BUT HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY AID/W THAT SUCH STRUCTURE NOT AVAILABLE STATESIDE. (FYI. GIRM HAS ORDERED NEW FERRY FROM GERMANY, BUT IT NOT DUE IN SERVICE UNTIL MID-1975.)

3. OUR AIM IS TO MAINTAIN AND, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, TO ACCELERATE MOVEMENT GRAIN FROM DAKAR PORT ACROSS SENEGAL INTO MAURITANIA IN THIS CRITICAL PRE-RAINS SEASON. ONCE EVEN LIGHT RAINS FALL, ROADS LEADING EASTWARD ARE CUT MAKING OVERLAND ACCESS IMPOSSIBLE FOR WEEKS AT A TIME. LAST REASONABLE HOPE ACHIEVING MAXIMUM FLOW GRAINS ACROSS SENEGAL SEEMS TO LIE IN OBTAINING ON LOAN MODERN, FULLY EQUIPPED FERRY FROM EUROPE COMPLETE WITH SPARE PARTS AND MECHANICS. THOUGH THSRE ARE OBVIOUSLY OTHER MORE ECONOMICAL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEM, NONE OF THESE CAN BE APPLIED SOON ENOUGH TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON DISTRIBUTION DURING THIS PRE-HARVEST PERIOD WHEN FOOD STOCKS MOST URGENTLY NEEDED.

4. HOPE ABOVE BACKGROUND INFORMATION PROVIDES TALKING POINTS FOR USE WITH ODM. WELCOME FURTHER ENQUIRIES.MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, ENGINEERING, CARGO HANDLING, MILITARY PERSONNEL, SPARE PARTS, HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION, FERRIES, INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORTATION, PIP ELINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NOUAKC00631
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740133-0997
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740514/aaaaalzl.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LONDON 06394, DAKAR 2797, NOUAKCHOTT
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 NOV 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROSSO FERRY
TAGS: EAID, TECH, MR, UK, GE
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005